

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the third paragraph at page 1, lines 18-24, with the following amended paragraph.

a1 --The recovery of caustic from sodium carbonate is a commonplace activity in most alumina refineries. The causticisation of sodium carbonate is generally effected by the addition of lime, which reacts with the sodium carbonate to form calcium carbonate, thereby liberating sodium hydroxide. An improved version of this process is described in our co-pending International Application No. PCT/AU99/00757, filed on the 25th of September 1999 and entitled "Improved Bayer Causticisation", and co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/787,943, filed March 23, 2001 and which is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU99/00757. The contents of PCT/AU99/00757 and 09/787,943 are incorporated herein by reference.--
